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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,685	12/05/2003	Dejan Radosavljevic	905-191	4574

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EXAMINER

BENENSON, BORIS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2836

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/729,685

Applicant(s)

RADOSAVLJEVIC ET AL.

Examiner

Boris Benenson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 26-46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-15,19-25 and 47-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Detailed Actions

1. Amendment received on 1/17/2007 is entered.

The Specification is amended.

Objection to the Specification is withdrawn.

Response to the arguments

2. Applicants argue, referring to Claims 1 and 47, that neither Bowden nor Brenner teach or suggest a "protection device being configured to protect a portion of the power distribution system from at least one fault condition" as recited in Claim 1. The argument is not convincing because that portion of the claim cannot be considered as a claim limitation and represent only intended use of the device and because according to Brenner electrical receptacles "will be protected from the entry of foreign materials, such as, rain, dust, dirt, and will discourage children from inserting anything into the live receptacle" and therefore a distribution system that include the electrical receptacles will be protected from some of fault conditions.

3. Applicants also argue that prior art references do not teach "protective shutter mechanism being integrated into

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housing" and "being substantially sealed in closed position".

The argument is not convincing because Bowden disclosed a shutter mechanism integrated into a housing and Brenner teaches a "gasket having self sealing slits".

4. Applicant successfully argues that drawings, accompanied with the specification, provide enough information to understand the invention. Objections to the Drawings are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this

Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 5-15, 19, 23-25, and 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowden Jr. (5,006,075) in view of Brenner (3,845,234). Bowden disclosed an Electrical Receptacle With Shuttered Prong-Receiving Opening. The receptacle comprises a base read on housing (Fig.1, Pos. 10) and a cover (Pos. 14). The cover includes receptacle openings (Pos.

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24, 26, 28, and 30) configured to accommodate plug contact blades. Receptacle contacts are located inside the housing and are in communication with a corresponding receptacle opening. A protective shutter mechanism (Pos. 22) is integrated into the housing. The protective shutter mechanism covered receptacle contacts in a closed position and not movable from the closed position to an open position upon of an object into one receptacle opening. Bowden didn't disclose the protective shutter mechanism been substantially sealed. Brenner teaches a Means For Protecting Electrical Receptacles, comprising a gasket read on a membrane (Figs.1 and 2, Pos. 8). Brenner teaches "The gasket is preferably made of rubber or equivalent material having good self sealing characteristics so that when the plug is removed from the socket the apertures will be protected from the entry of foreign materials, such as, rain, dust, dirt, and will discourage children from inserting anything into the live receptacle"(Col.2, Lines 8-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the receptacle of Bowden with teachings of Brenner and install into the receptacle a sealing gasket with sealable openings for inserting the plug, because as teaches Brenner it will protect the receptacle from foreign materials, such as, rain, dust and dirt.

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Referring to Claims 5-15, the protective shutter mechanism of Bowden (Figs. 2-3) comprises "a support frame, termed a spacer element 32, and first, second and third shutter elements 34, 36 and 38, respectively" (Col.3, Lines 40-41). The first and second shutter elements read on slide assembly coupled to the frame member are disposed spaced apart in closed position and configure to simultaneously slide together when moved from the closed position to the open position. The first slide assembly (34) includes a first blocking member read on a first shutter blade member (Figs. 5a-5f, Pos. 66). The second slide assembly (36) includes a second blocking member read on a second shutter blade (Figs. 6a-6f, Pos. 72). The first and second blocking members are blocking (sealing) a first and second apertures therefore blocking the object from entering a receptacle opening. Only upon simultaneous insertion both blades of the plug the first and second blocking member slide simultaneously into the open position. A spring (Fig. 3, Pos. 106) is coupling the first shutter blade member (Pos. 34) to the frame (Pos. 32). The spring is in compression in both closed and open positions. Both blocking members comprising pins (64c and 70c) to accommodate first ends of spring elements (106, 108).

6. Claim 2, 20-22 and 49-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowden, Jr. (5,006,075) in

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view of Brenner (3,845,234) and Finlay (6,587,319). Bowden in view of Brenner disclose all the limitation of Claim 1, as it was discussed above, but didn't disclose a mis-wiring sensor configured to sense a proper wiring. Bowden in view of Brenner did not disclose also a fault detection circuit disposed on a circuit board being configured to detect a fault condition and disconnect the power source from at least one receptacle. Finlay teaches a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter With Indicator Lamp that includes a mis-wiring detection, a ground fault detection arc fault detection, and disconnection the power source from the receptacles. Finlay teaches a test button read on a manually operable assembly that is accessible to a user to test/reset the interrupter. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified and include miswiring sensor according to Finlay's teachings, because it will provide addition protection for the receptacle and attached circuitry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention that an arm that would connect the test button of Finlay with contact (Fig.1, Pos. 130) should be sealed similar to all other elements.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 26-46 are allowed.

8. Claims 3-4, 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

9. Independent Claim 26 is allowable because none of the prior art of record disclose a protection device configured to protect a portion of a power distribution system from a fault condition wherein a mis-wiring sensor actuate a protective shutter mechanism from a locked state to an unlocked state in response to detecting the proper wiring condition in combination with the other claim limitations.

10. Claims 3-4 and 16-18 would be allowable because none of the prior art of record disclose a protection device configured to protect a portion of a power distribution system from a fault condition wherein a mis-wiring sensor prevent/allow a protective shutter mechanism to move from a locked state to an unlocked

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state if the proper wiring condition is not sensed or sensed in combination with the other claim limitations.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris

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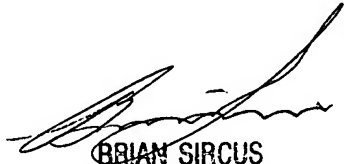
Benenson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2048. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:20-6:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Boris Benenson
Examiner
Art Unit 2836

B.B.


BRIAN SIRCUS
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